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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 17

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 26, 1954

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Cotton mill consumption in Canada during March amounted to 33,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), representing a 30-percent increase over February consumption of 25,000 bales and continuing the upward trend from the low level of 22,000 in January.

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Further expansion of the cotton textile industry in Korea is indicated by the recent purchase from Japan of new spindles and other equipment valued at $5.5 million. A Korean firm is making the purchase which reportedly includes 50,000 spindles and 1,300 looms (includes 400 silk looms). Payments for this equipment are to extend over a 4-year period.

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Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in January 1954 amounted to 76,000 bales (500 pounds gross), making a total of 462,000 bales for August-January. The principal destinations in the latter total are: Japan 199,000 bales, Belgium 61,000, Western Germany 48,000, United Kingdom 44,000, the Netherlands 35,000, Spain 21,000, Switzerland 15,000, Sweden 10,000, and Italy 7,000. These figures include cotton linters, waste, hull fiber, etc., but do not include transshipments to Canada by railroad.

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(Continued on Page 379)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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WORLD APPLE AND PEAR PRODUCTION DOWN

Apples

Current estimates of world apple production (for the countries specified) in 1953 confirm previous indications of a considerable decline from the 1952 crop. Production including cider apples is indicated at 568 million bushels, a 17-percent decline from the 1952 outturn of 686 million bushels. Included in the estimates is production in the Southern Hemisphere in the early months of calendar year 1954.

Excluding cider apples, the decrease is not as great, with 1953 production totalling 423 million bushels - 9 percent below the 1952 output of 462 million bushels. The prewar average production of apples other than for cider was 334 million bushels.

The North American crop of 106 million bushels, while only a million bushels below 1952, was the smallest since 1948, and less than three-fourths of the prewar (1935-39) average crop. The 1953 United States commercial crop of 92.6 million bushels was virtually the same as the very small 1952 crop. The Canadian production of 11.2 million bushels was 7 percent below 1952 and the smallest crop since 1945.

For Western Europe (i.e. the countries outside of the Iron Curtain), which is the most important apple-producing area in the world, 1953 was the off-year in the alternation of heavy and light crops. Including cider apples, 1953 production is estimated at 370.8 million bushels compared with 479.6 million bushels in 1952.

Exclusive of cider apples, West European production in 1953 is estimated at 225.3 million bushels compared with 256 million bushels in 1952, a decline of 30.7 million bushels, or 12 percent. Nevertheless the 1953 crop is almost 80 percent larger than the average prewar production. An indication of the greatly expanded postwar production of dessert and cooking apples in Western Europe is the fact that in 1953, an off-year for European trees, production of apples, was greater than the prewar average in nearly every country, and very substantially so for the large majority of the countries. A similar expansion does not appear to have taken place for cider apples, judging from the incomplete information available.

Compared with the 1952 crop, the 1953 crop was lower in every important producing country in Western Europe with the exception of the United Kingdom, where production of dessert and cooking apples rose 21 percent to 28.8 million bushels, a record crop, and well over two and one-half times an average prewar crop.

APPLES: Production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-53

Continent and country	Averages 1935-39	Averages 1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada.............	14,560	14,818	16,166	13,610	12,049	11,192
Mexico..............	1,231	2,029	2,170	2,337	2,563	2,296
United States.......	127,311	104,279	124,488	110,660	92,489	92,584
Total............	143,102	121,126	142,824	126,607	107,101	106,072
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking	7,095	8,008	9,645	8,956	10,159	7,107
Cider............	6,291	7,101	6,889	3,445	4,933	3,821
Belgium & Luxemburg	5,721	9,129	14,553	14,294	14,298	14,200
Denmark............	2,818	7,303	13,779	8,267	8,956	6,706
Finland............	1,008	546	184	666	459	690
France:						
Dessert & cooking	10,499	13,630	18,934	14,022	24,152	19,499
Cider............	153,973	71,444	216,112	82,843	214,367	138,247
Germany, Western...	36,116	37,890	79,200	49,200	62,000	57,000
Greece.............	374	1,203	1,240	1,323	1,727	2,296
Italy..............	12,923	19,849	23,484	38,419	42,713	38,870
Netherlands........	3,631	9,452	12,681	16,268	18,372	11,482
Norway.............	1,080	1,073	2,704	1,939	2,209	1,663
Spain..............	5,411	5,859	4,549	5,052	7,349	6,000
Sweden.............	4,770	6,164	9,691	6,889	6,595	6,899
Switzerland........	16,452	20,300	30,313	10,564	25,720	16,075
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking	10,597	19,705	20,902	27,911	23,753	23,840
Cider............	3,427	4,078	5,119	4,667	4,293	3,435
Yugoslavia.........	7,098	7,490	4,700	8,212	7,542	8,000
Total above......	289,284	250,224	474,679	302,937	479,597	370,830
Total above (excl. cider)..........	125,593	167,601	246,559	211,982	256,004	225,327
Total other Europe 2/.......	32,436	32,895	42,350	36,060	37,900	32,000
Total above specified countries..	321,720	283,119	517,029	338,997	517,497	402,830

(Continued)

(Continued)

APPLES: Production in specified countries, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-53

Continent and country	Averages 1935-39	Averages 1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
ASIA						
Israel	65	244	138	64	78	80
Lebanon	3/ 104	597	597	781	781	873
Syria	4/ -	252	299	207	82	220
Turkey	5,149	3,954	6,400	4,082	4,361	5,000
Japan	7,624	8,883	20,130	12,106	25,209	21,862
Korea	3,220	4,910	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	16,162	18,340	28,564	18,240	31,511	29,035
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	1,400	7,732	14,200	11,200	13,400	13,000
Chile	1,025	806	902	1,105	1,804	1,503
Total	2,425	8,538	15,102	12,305	15,204	14,503
AFRICA						
Tunisia	115	168	115	138	184	138
Un. of South Africa	1,142	1,180	1,499	1,750	1,900	2,000
Total	1,257	1,348	1,614	1,888	2,084	2,138
OCEANIA						
Australia	10,435	11,478	9,711	10,743	9,766	10,776
New Zealand	2,875	2,794	2,954	3,015	2,690	2,936
Total	13,310	14,272	12,665	13,758	12,456	13,712
Total specified countries	497,976	447,243	717,798	511,795	685,853	568,290
Total specified countries (excl. cider)	334,285	364,620	489,678	420,840	462,260	422,787

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Germany, Eastern. 3/ Includes Syria. 4/ Included with Lebanon. Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 48 pounds except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

PEARS: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-53

Continent and country	Averages 1935-39	Averages 1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada..............	569	873	864	1,225	1,303	1,427
Mexico..............	331	596	639	684	751	705
United States........	28,693	33,108	29,312	30,028	30,947	29,065
Total..............	29,593	34,577	30,815	31,937	33,001	31,197
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert and cooking	950	1,380	1,764	1,323	1,825	1,444
Cider..............	5,416	5,885	7,495	6,614	6,561	5,647
Belgium & Luxemburg..	2,126	5,204	6,065	4,694	11,511	11,500
Denmark..............	480	855	1,019	1,056	1,100	1,100
France:						
Dessert and cooking	1,760	5,447	6,295	5,409	7,789	6,634
Cider..............	21,776	11,165	33,774	12,947	33,501	21,605
Germany, Western.....	11,891	13,370	25,750	11,730	23,600	19,400
Greece..............	878	1,220	838	1,393	1,530	1,720
Italy................	8,482	11,243	13,357	16,209	17,108	18,100
Netherlands..........	1,570	5,582	5,573	5,840	8,730	5,070
Norway..............	174	194	445	278	304	181
Spain................	3,057	2,609	2,469	2,866	3,197	3,000
Sweden..............	1,063	1,102	1,808	1,323	2,116	1,031
Switzerland..........	7,037	11,728	17,637	6,614	12,346	9,700
United Kingdom:						
Dessert and cooking	782	1,492	1,008	1,384	1,998	1,586
Cider..............	237	272	90	94	291	215
Yugoslavia..........	2,773	3,050	1,821	4,698	2,694	3,000
Total above........	70,452	81,798	127,208	84,472	136,201	110,933
Total above (excl. cider)..........	43,023	64,476	85,849	64,317	95,848	83,466
Total other Europe 2/	12,710	11,723	15,080	11,570	13,600	11,400
Total above specified countries...	83,162	93,521	142,288	96,042	149,801	122,333

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PEARS: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-53

Continent and country	Averages 1935-39	Averages 1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
ASIA						
Lebanon	3/ 24	263	146	154	154	155
Syria	4/ -	66	88	62	40	62
Turkey	3,466	2,992	3,292	3,552	2,368	3,000
Japan	7,366	2,644	3,348	3,580	4,363	4,145
Korea	775	667	500	500	500	500
Total	11,631	6,632	7,374	7,848	7,425	7,862
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	2,443	4,975	6,060	5,300	4,600	3,300
Chile	88	103	110	149	175	150
Total	2,531	5,078	6,170	5,449	4,775	3,450
AFRICA						
Tunisia	53	53	44	45	40	40
Union of South Africa	832	676	636	848	1,240	1,000
Total	885	729	680	893	1,280	1,040
OCEANIA						
Australia	2,467	3,059	3,549	3,534	3,159	2,573
New Zealand	328	371	526	379	486	359
Total	2,795	3,430	4,075	3,913	3,645	2,932
Total specified countries	130,597	143,967	191,402	146,082	199,927	168,814
Total specified countries (excl. cider)	103,168	126,645	150,043	126,427	159,574	141,347

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Germany, Eastern. 3/ Includes Syria. 4/ Included with Lebanon.

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 50 pounds except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

Fragmentary information indicates that the apple crop in the Iron Curtain countries was also smaller than in 1952.

In the Asian countries for which statistics are available, only Japan experienced a decline in production. The revised estimate of the Japanese crop is 21.9 million bushels, a decrease of 13 percent, due to the alternate-bearing characteristic of the orchards.

In the Southern Hemisphere Argentina and Chile are estimated to have smaller crops while somewhat larger crops are indicated for Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Pears:

Current estimates of world pear production (for the countries specified) bear out earlier indications of a substantial decrease in the 1953 crop compared with 1952. Production in 1953, including cider pears, is estimated at 169 million bushels or 16 percent less than the 200 million bushels estimated for 1952.

If pears for cider are excluded, the decline is not quite as great, with 1953 production totalling 141 million bushels, a 12 percent decrease from the 160 million bushels indicated for 1952. Production in each of these years has exceeded the prewar average of 103 million bushels by a considerable margin - by 37 percent in 1953 and 55 percent in 1952.

In North America, where the United States crop accounts for nearly 95 percent of the production, the 1953 estimate is 5 percent below that of 1952, with a 1.9 million bushel decline in the United States more than offsetting an increase in the Canadian crop.

For Western Europe, which is also the most important pear-producing area in the world, 1953, as in the case of apples was an off-year, with production of all pears down 19 percent. Production of all pears (including cider types) totalled 110.9 million bushels in 1953 compared with 136.2 million bushels in 1952 and only 70.5 million bushels in the prewar (1935-39) period.

If cider pears are excluded, 1953 production in Western Europe totalled 83.5 million bushels, or 13 percent below the 95.8 million bushels produced in 1952. Production of pears, other than for cider, has also greatly expanded in Western Europe during the postwar period. Production in 1953 and 1952 was 94 percent and 123 percent, respectively, larger than the prewar (1935-39) average.

Of the West European countries, Italy was the only major producer in which pear production was greater in 1953 than in 1952, increasing from 17.1 to 18.1 million bushels, the largest crop on record.

Incomplete information from the Iron Curtain countries also indicates a smaller pear crop in 1953 than in 1952.

In Asia, Turkish production is reported larger than the very small crop in 1952. The 1953 Japanese crop was reportedly slightly below the 1952 level, with both crops being well-below the prewar average.

In the Southern Hemisphere, production is estimated to be sharply down in Argentina, South Africa, and Australia.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

UNITED STATES FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1954

Export Highlights

Farm exports this February show notable improvement. United States farm exports this February totaled $236 million in value, 9 percent above last February's rate and 15 percent more than this January's. The postwar pattern for farm exports in the month of February shows a slight recovery from the seasonal year-end drop, but this year's February upturn was greater than usual. July-February farm exports of $1,905 million this year were only 1 percent below last year.

Sharp rise for cotton leads in expansion. Raw cotton exports continued to improve and were the biggest factor in the February gain for all farm exports. After moving up to 308 thousand bales in January 1954, they climbed further to 401 thousand bales in February, 48 percent more than in February a year ago. Depletion of foreign stocks toward the close of 1953 caused world prices to rise to United States levels and to shift demand from foreign to United States sources.

Improved rice exports also help to raise February total. Farm exports in February also gained because of the substantial improvement in rice shipments. Commercial exports of 191 million pounds as shown in this report contrasted sharply with February 1953's 78 million pounds; but total shipments, including military exports and the milled equivalent of paddy, were 201 million pounds compared with 141 million last year. Chief factors in providing a high level of export for United States rice include the continued strong demand in the Far East and increased takings by many countries in the Western Hemisphere, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural commodities and groups during February 1953 and 1954

Commodity exported	Unit	February 1/			
		Quantity		Value	
		1953	1954	1953	1954
		Thousands	Thousands	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Cheese	Lb.	236	393	124	179
Milk, condensed	Lb.	1,527	62	381	16
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	7,785	13,228	1,247	2,050
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	2,850	2,671	1,614	1,396
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	1,690	15,802	321	2,715
Eggs, in the shell	Doz.	2,688	1,533	1,374	863
Beef and veal, total 2/	Lb.	1,272	5,848	377	1,372
Pork, total 2/	Lb.	9,983	4,407	1,949	1,310
Other meats 2/	Lb.	4,207	5,757	1,153	1,675
Lard	Lb.	45,881	39,558	4,458	6.976
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	69,251	83,612	4,144	6,197
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	271	401	46,672	70,503
Apples, fresh	Lb.	3,332	5,980	356	537
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	12,649	14,155	447	424
Oranges and tangerines	Lb.	57,981	59,292	2,353	2,662
Pears, fresh	Lb.	1,845	2,993	193	207
Prunes, dried	Lb.	4,177	21,219	709	3,633
Raisins and currants	Lb.	30,436	3,155	2,155	379
Fruits, canned	Lb.	9,422	8,348	1,558	1,364
Fruit juices	Gal.	2,298	2,070	2,059	2,215
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	1,771	59	2,883	115
Barley, malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	390	363	1,098	862
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	7,581	8,002	14,143	13,772
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	2,626	3	4,860	6
Rice, milled, excludes paddy	Lb.	78,325	191,258	8,311	16,977
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	25,586	13,824	52,716	26,430
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,460	1,011	7,077	4,693
Flour, not wholly of U.S.wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	133	63	705	390
Hops	Lb.	2,213	785	1,715	521
Nuts and preparations	Lb.	1,086	2,340	375	473
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.)	Bu.	2,256	2,501	7,092	8,109
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc.	Lb.	1,432	19,018	217	2,594
Cottonseed oil, crude, refined, etc.	Lb.	6,235	20,923	893	2,647
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	1,775	5,378	734	1,348
Tobacco, flue-cured	Lb.	17,521	14,830	10,732	9,372
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	5,141	3,913	3,337	2,447
Beans, dried	Lb.	19,831	21,837	2,005	1,555
Peas, dried	Lb.	4,563	5,129	377	388
Potatoes, white	Lb.	6,907	7,172	225	142
Vegetables, fresh, other	Lb.	44,759	49,879	1,889	2,082
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	9,749	7,361	1,270	1,042
Food exported for relief, etc.				488	4,585
Other agricultural commodities				19,728	28,347
Total agricultural				216,514	235,570
Total all commodities				1,186,853	1,167,849

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Product weight.
Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural commodities and groups during February 1953 and 1954

Commodity imported	Unit	February 1/			
		Quantity		Value	
		1953	1954	1953	1954
SUPPLEMENTARY				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	31	5	2,324	750
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	2/	1	71	244
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	5,808	3,986	760	663
Cheese	Lb.	3,559	3,162	1,826	1,670
Hides and skins	Lb.	10,660	6,694	4,065	2,925
Beef and veal, total 3/	Lb.	7,567	10,873	2,542	3,291
Pork, total 3/	Lb.	6,791	13,125	5,541	10,408
Wool, unmfd., excl. free, etc.	Lb.	30,306	10,903	22,286	9,403
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	26	13	5,407	2,347
Jute and jute butts, unmfd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton	7	3	1,103	868
Olives in brine	Gal.	1,037	1,010	1,591	1,604
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	4,819	1,177	587	140
Other fruits and preparations		4/	4/	1,465	1,971
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	799	756	1,342	874
Oats, grain (32 lb.)	Bu.	4,449	3,859	3,756	2,631
Wheat and flour (grain equiv. 60 lb.)	Bu.	724	302	1,499	584
Feeds and fodders		4/	4/	3,760	3,541
Nuts and preparations		4/	4/	3,164	2,836
Castor beans	Lb.	13,322	9,958	1,179	445
Copra	Lb.	39,938	52,951	3,601	4,997
Oils, fats, waxes, veg. expressed	Lb.	28,033	22,929	6,954	4,706
Sugar, cane (2,000 lb.)	Ton	288	341	31,237	36,853
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	48,478	19,955	3,415	1,951
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	6,069	5,633	4,092	3,674
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,261	1,307	1,877	2,012
Seeds, field and garden		4/	4/	1,919	2,516
Potatoes, white	Lb.	16,956	21,302	598	304
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	57,959	36,851	4,570	2,622
Other supplementary				16,859	15,818
Total supplementary				139,390	122,648
COMPLEMENTARY					
Silk, raw	Lb.	399	295	1,967	1,395
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	14,651	10,352	6,902	5,233
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	3,711	3,913	4,691	5,275
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	238,944	252,452	121,181	140,745
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.	55,320	60,487	15,120	25,101
Tea	Lb.	7,949	11,580	3,251	5,680
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	7,194	6,741	4,606	4,195
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	10	17	2,520	3,456
Rubber, crude	Lb.	108,539	95,524	28,816	17,080
Other complementary				6,715	7,565
Total complementary				195,769	215,725
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES				335,159	338,373
TOTAL ALL COMMODITIES				847,313	815,706

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500. 3/ Product weight. 4/ Value only.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

February wheat exports are one-third above January's but remain well below a year earlier. The 16 million bushels of wheat and flour exported in February this year was about one-third above January's 12 million bushels and about 45 percent under shipments a year earlier. United States wheat exports continue to be depressed by increased world output and larger supplies in many deficit areas. February's gain reflected the entry of Western Germany and Japan into the market.

February tobacco exports are past seasonal peak after large shipments late in 1953. Tobacco exports, which for several months have been showing steady gains over a year earlier, were off slightly this January and showed a further reduction in February as compared with the year before. February's 19 million pounds this year compared with 30 million in January and 23 million last February, but exports early last year included large takings by the United Kingdom that were deferred from late 1952.

Other notable developments in February were: There were increases over February, 1953 for tallow, beef, dried prunes, soybeans, soybean oil, cottonseed oil, and food exported for private relief purposes; reductions for raisins, barley, grain sorghums, and hops. Exports of lard were smaller but higher prices resulted in a larger value for the month.

Agricultural share of total exports in February is 2 percent above a year earlier. Farm products comprised 20 percent of all United States commodities exported this February; a year ago the share was 18 percent. Total exports were about the same in February of both years, $1,168 million in February 1954 compared with $1,187 million in February 1953. However, "commercial" nonfarm exports this February were larger than last February's rate, $748 million compared with $697 million, the decline in the total being due to smaller military exports.

Import Highlights

United States imports smaller value of competitive products, but greater value of noncompetitive. February 1954's imports of agricultural products of $338 million were $3 million larger than last February's rate. Supplementary, or competitive, products declined by $17 million, but this drop was more than offset by a $20 million increase in complementary, or noncompetitive, products from abroad.

Greater use of domestic apparel wool is reflected in lower competitive imports. February 1954's imports of apparel wool were only 11 million pounds compared with 30 million last February. Apparel-wool imports have been relatively small for several months as a result of reduced mill consumption and greater use of domestic wool. Other competitive items that declined were cotton, molasses unfit for human consumption, fresh tomatoes, expressed vegetable oils, casein, pineapples, jute, oats, and wheat. Larger competitive imports included beef, pork, copra, and potatoes.

Coffee imports continue larger than last year; price is also up. The increase in the coffee value was the main reason for the higher total for noncompetitive products in February 1954. February's coffee imports of 252 million pounds totaled 5 percent more than last February. The higher average import value per pound of 57 cents this February reflected the shortage of Brazilian coffee; a year ago the average value was 51 cents.

Agricultural share of total imports rises slightly this February. The proportion of agricultural commodities in this February's total imports for consumption was 41 percent, an increase of 1 percent over last February. Nonagricultural imports declined to $478 million this February, 7 percent less than a year earlier.

U.S. EXPORTS OF APPLES DOWN; PEARS UP

Apples

United States exports of apples from July 1953 through February 1954, totaled 839,000 bushels, or 7 percent less than the 900,000 bushels exported in the same period of 1952-53. Exports to Canada were substantially larger than for the same period last year -- totaling 201,000 boxes so far this season, compared with 128,000 boxes. This increase in shipments to Canada, however, has been more than offset by somewhat smaller exports to Latin-America as a whole, and considerably smaller exports to the Far East. Exports to Europe were negligible in both periods.

Pears

United States exports of pears from July, 1953, through February 1954, totaled 683,000 bushels, an increase of 6 percent over the 644,000 bushels exported in the same period of 1952-53. This increase took place despite a sharp decline in exports to Canada, the United States' largest customer. A considerable increase in exports to Western Europe more than offset the decline in shipments to Canada.

Western European countries took 183,000 bushels of United States pears in the first 8 months this season compared with only 48,000 bushels a year earlier. This increase in takings by the Western European countries is due to a combination of factors -- the smaller European crop, generally improved dollar balances which have led to some relaxation of restrictions against dollar imports, and the existence, this marketing season, of an export subsidy.

(See tables on next page)

APPLES, fresh: Exports from United States
July - Feb. 1953-54 with comparison

Country of destination	1952-53 1000 bu.	1953-54 1000 bu.
Mexico	71	106
El Salvador	8	6
Honduras	5	5
Panama, Republic of	27	16
Panama, Canal Zone	7	5
Netherland Antilles	17	14
Dominican Republic	14	9
Venezuela	104	105
Philippines, Republic of	113	75
Costa Rica	9	11
Cuba	148	125
British Malaya	84	35
Hong Kong	35	22
Peru	6	6
Brazil	66	24
Ceylon	14	8
Indonesia	1	13
Sweden	20	7
Canada	128	201
Switzerland	0	9
Other	23	37
Total	900	839

PEARS, fresh: Exports from United States
July - Feb. 1953-54 with comparison

Country of destination	1952-53 1000 bu.	1953-54 1000 bu.
Canada	342	279
Mexico	17	20
Panama, Republic of	7	10
Cuba	55	40
Venezuela	65	71
Sweden	44	56
Netherlands	2	53
Belgium-Luxembourg	2	34
Brazil	95	62
Western Germany	0	10
Norway	0	30
Others	15	18
Total	644	683

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS UP SLIGHTLY

Philippine copra exports during March 1954 totaled 50,966 long tons, an increase of 2 percent from the previous month but 14 percent above the volume shipped in March 1953. Total shipments during January-March 1954 amounted to 151,337 tons or approximately one-third more than the 112,943 tons exported in the comparable period of 1953.

The breakdown of the March copra exports by country of destination is as follows: United States--23,000 tons (Atlantic-2,137, Gulf-3,751, Pacific-17,112); Canada--1,000; Belguim--1,000; Denmark--3,800; Germany--7,000; Italy--500; the Netherlands--8,875; Norway--2,000; Spain--98; Europe unspecified--500; Lebanon-850; and Venezuela--2,343 tons.

March exports of coconut oil totaled 5,036 tons compared with 4,978 tons in February and 2,992 tons in March 1953. January-March exports amounted to 13,447 tons against 9,938 tons in 1953. The entire quantity of oil shipped through March came to the United States (Atlantic).

On a copra equivalent basis exports of copra and coconut oil during the first 3 months of the year totaled 172,729 tons or 34 percent more than the 128,718 tons exported in the same months of 1953.

The copra export price in mid-March was $180 per short ton, c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila were quoted at 22.50 to 31.00 pesos per 100 kilograms ($114.31 to $157.50 per long ton).

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS UP IN FEBRUARY

Exports of cotton from the United States in February amounted to 401,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (385,000 running bales) and were the highest for any month this season. The cumulative total of 1,994,000 bales (1,910,000 running bales) for August-February 1953-54 is only 4 percent below that for a corresponding period a year ago. At the end of January it was 12 percent below. Trade figures for March and the first half of April, published by the New York Cotton Exchange, indicate that exports in that period were at a rate higher than that in February.

The principal factors influencing the recent rise in export volume are a record level of world cotton consumption thus far this season, depletion of stocks available for export from other countries until new crops are harvested, and a consequent rise in prices of competitive foreign growths to the level of United States prices. The low level of stocks in nearly all importing countries also makes it necessary that imports be maintained currently at the consumption level. (These factors were discussed in greater detail in Foreign Crops and Markets, March 29.)

The improvement in export outlook together with reports of drought in western cotton growing areas have caused some foreign importers to feel that the possibilities for lower cotton export prices next season are diminishing. Statistics available to date indicate that 1953-54 exports should reach and possibly exceed 3.5 million running bales (about 3.65 million bales of 500 pounds).--By Charles H. Barber.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1951 and 1952; August-February 1952-53 and 1953-54

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1951	1952	August-February	
	1935-39	1945-49			1952-53	1953-54
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria	0	1/ 36	32	47	22	28
Belgium-Luxembourg	169	131	317	73	59	29
Czechoslovakia	65	57	0	0	0	0
Denmark	33	14	34	34	19	13
Finland	35	21	33	4	4	0
France	662	575	309	507	287	259
Germany	511	340	447	241	156	189
Italy	442	489	560	272	198	156
Netherlands	107	131	197	79	55	52
Norway	17	7	15	11	8	7
Poland and Danzig	180	69	0	0	0	0
Portugal	36	2/	21	1	1	0
Spain	108	69	203	77	64	90
Sweden	115	12	100	36	25	24
Switzerland	11	26	99	28	25	18
United Kingdom	1,346	488	662	359	276	213
Yugoslavia	17	47	122	86	58	21
Other Europe	31	3/ 33	6	6	2	5
	3,885	2,545	3,157	1,861	1,259	1,104
Canada	301	275	296	234	182	119
Chile	9	20	35	1	1	10
Colombia	20	24	53	35	32	2
Cuba	11	16	20	12	8	9
India	52	86	778	45	32	54
China	117	401	0	0	0	0
French Indochina	22	6	24	18	13	12
Indonesia	2/	5	14	17	11	15
Japan	1,142	585	1,095	691	416	499
Korea, Republic of	4/	5/ 48	55	41	26	57
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/	1	53	107	64	63
Australia	9	7	50	11	8	18
Other countries	21	46	6/ 81	7/ 58	29	32
Total	5,589	4,065	5,711	3,181	2,081	1,994

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Four-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries." 5/ Three-year average. 6/ Mostly countries in Asia (35) and Africa (25). 7/ Israel 14, Republic of Philippines 16.

ECUADORAN RICE TRADE

Following Ecuadoran rice exports of about 57,000 metric tons (1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds) in 1952, the opening stocks at the beginning of 1953 were large enough to cover domestic requirements only for a little over 6 weeks at the average rate of consumption. As the new rice crop was not available until May, Ecuador at the beginning of the year was forced to embargo rice exports, and to take over all existing stocks of rice. Imports were authorized amounting to about 3,700 metric tons from Peru and Colombia. Later, however, some of these imports were reexported because of high prices in the first half of 1953.

In September 1953, the Government of Ecuador granted an export subsidy which, in terms of U. S. dollars, brought about 9 cents a pound f.o.b. Guayaquil. From July through December 45,000 metric tons were exported, of which about 34,000 went to Japan, and the balance to Bolivia and the Union of South Africa. Even under the subsidy, export sales were lower than anticipated due to the high percentage of "yellow" grains caused by flood damage.

There were very limited exports which were unsubsidized after the conclusion of the Government's subsidy program on December 31, 1953. Up to the middle of March not over 135 metric tons had been marketed. Taking into consideration the volume of the carry-over stocks at the beginning of 1954, it is evident that the availability for export during calendar year 1954 will be in the neighborhood of 45,000 tons. Unless the damaged portion of the stocks can be utilized domestically, and the average quality of rice offered for export be thereby raised, it is doubtful whether the entire surplus can be marketed.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS EXCEED LAST YEAR'S HIGH LEVEL

Exports of rice from the United States for the period August 1 through February 1953-54 were higher by about 200,000 bags (of 100 pounds) than for the same period last year, when an all-time high was set. Shipments for the first 7 months of the rice-marketing year amounted to approximately 11.5 million bags.

February rice exports to the Western Hemisphere were 23 percent above last season, with increases to Canada, British Honduras, Cuba, Netherlands Antilles, Venezuela and Colombia. Shipments to Europe showed a 66-percent increase over February 1953, the principal destination being Belgium. The total of 262,000 bags to that continent for the first 7 months exceeded the total for last year by 183,000 bags.

Total February exports to Asia showed a 48-percent increase over last February, with nearly all exports for this grouping going to Japan. The 7-month exports to Japan stand at nearly 6 million bags as compared with the record shipment of 5.4 million for the entire marketing year of 1951-52.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
February 1954, with comparisons 1/

Continent and country	August-July		August-February		February	
	1951-52	1952-53 2/	1952-53	1953-54 2/	1953	1954 2/
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	443	601	412	441	56	71
British Honduras	22	3	3	6	0	3
British W. Indies	54	81	79	4	1	3/
Cuba	5,118	4,876	3,264	3,819	301	312
Netherlands Antilles	25	41	25	29	4	6
Venezuela	196	86	50	160	8	31
Colombia	3/	3/	0	35	0	33
Other countries	38	15	7	19	1	3/
Total	5,896	5,703	3,840	4,513	371	456
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg	57	52	37	159	3	16
Greece	209	3/	3/	5	3/	0
Iceland	3	8	6	3/	1	0
Switzerland	21	38	35	45	8	3
West Germany	1	3/	3/	16	0	3/
Other countries	3/	2	1	37	3/	1
Total	291	100	79	262	12	20
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia	91	138	79	77	11	12
Ceylon	741	647	647	0	0	0
Indonesia	1,799	1,100	833	0	33	0
Philippines	71	3/	0	3/	0	0
Korea, Republic of	2,821 4/	4,631 4/	1,978	590 4/	732	0
Hong Kong	0	179	179	0	0	0
Japan	5,430	4,420	3,203	5,999	252	1,513
Ryukyu Islands	0	616	422	0	0	0
Other countries	9	5	3	18	2	1
Total	10,962	11,736	7,344	6,684	1,030	1,526
Total Oceania	13	19	14	11	1	1
Liberia	73	22	22	0	0	0
Other Africa	4	1	3/	4	3/	0
Total world	17,239	17,581	11,299	11,476	1,414	2,005

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and Foreign Operations Administration.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

SPAIN'S RICE CROP PERMITS INCREASED EXPORTS

Exportable supplies from Spain's record rice crop in 1953 are estimated at 90,000 metric tons (200 million pounds), an increase of about 28,000 tons as compared with the preceding year. The Spanish Government in 1954 expects to export an estimated 68,000 tons (150 million pounds) to Japan or to other areas for hard currency. No sales have been reported recently. Last year exports totaled 61,883 metric tons, all of which went to Japan. Some of the rice exported brought relatively high prices.

URUGUAYAN RICE CROP

The 1953-54 rice now going to harvest in Uruguay is tentatively estimated at a record of 53,000 metric tons (1 metric ton equals 2,204.6 pounds) (rough rice) from a planted area of 37,000 acres. The preceding crop yielded 52,407 tons and the 1951-52 crop, 47,154 tons.

No carry-over is reported from last year. Domestic requirements in rough rice equivalent amount to 25,000 tons, and 3,000 tons are needed for seed. An export availability of about 25,000 tons rough, or little over 16,000 tons milled, is indicated.

Rice exports in calendar year 1953 are estimated by trade sources to have been 14,000 tons, of which 8,000 went to Brazil, 3,500 to the United Kingdom, and 2,500 to other destinations, including Japan, Bolivia and Cuba.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS TO WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The breakdown in exports of United States rice shown in the tables on the following pages gives an indication that increases have occurred in recent years in rice shipments to the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Table 1 is a record of rice exports in 1953 compared with 1952 to all areas of this Hemisphere. In Table 2, trends of United States rice exports are shown for specified periods from 1925 to 1953 to the principal countries of destination in the Western Hemisphere.

Table 1.-RICE: United States exports to the Western Hemisphere, by country by destination, 1952 and 1953

Country of destination	1952				1953 1/			
	Rough in terms of milled	Milled		Total	Rough in terms of milled	Milled		Total
		Not over 25 percent broken	Over 25 percent broken			Not over 25 percent broken	Over 25 percent broken	
North America:	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
Canada	347,044	10,594	172,791	530,429	350,088	12,790	236,724	599,602
Mexico	520	8,993	1,881	11,394	39	0	14,160	14,199
Guatemala	131	12,250	1,000	13,381	31	0	0	31
British Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	2,500
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	452	0	0	452
Nicaragua	177	0	0	177	195	0	0	195
Panama, Republic of	0	0	500	500	1,186	0	0	1,186
Canal Zone	0	34	211	245	0	0	279	279
British West Indies								
Bermuda	0	35	5,508	5,543	0	0	4,369	4,369
Bahamas	0	250	8,423	8,673	0	900	2,225	3,125
Jamaica	0	0	69,200	69,200	39	0	0	39
Leeward & Windward	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	250
(Total)	(0)	(285)	(83,131)	(83,416)	(39)	(900)	(6,844)	(7,783)
Cuba	11,071	255,278	4,547,873	4,814,222	56,641	638,606	4,861,807	5,557,054
Haiti	299	0	3,920	4,219	50	0	1,804	1,854
Dominican Republic	0	0	15	15	6	0	0	6
Netherlands Antilles	0	2,534	32,178	34,712	0	0	42,025	42,025
Total No. America	359,242	289,968	4,843,500	5,492,710	408,727	654,796	5,163,643	6,227,166
South America:								
Colombia	0	0	110	110	807	0	0	807
Venezuela	19,192	500	37,180	56,872	26,769	0	121,290	148,059
Ecuador	117	0	0	117	0	0	0	0
Peru	0	0	564	564	0	0	138	138
Bolivia	0	300	1,550	1,850	0	0	7,985	7,985
Chile	0	0	2,922	2,922	0	0	500	500
Total So. America	19,309	800	42,326	62,435	27,576	0	129,913	157,489
Total West Hemisphere	378,551	290,768	4,885,826	5,555,145	436,303	654,796	5,293,556	6,384,655

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

Table 2.-RICE: United States exports to specified countries in the Western Hemisphere, averages 1925-29, 1936-50, annual 1951-53 1/

Country of destination	1925-1929	1936-1940	1941-1945	1946-1950	1951	1952	1953
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Caribbean area:							
British West Indies	1	2/	52	87	54	83	8
Cuba	128	1,685	3,251	5,393	5,557	4,814	5,557
Haiti	3/	1	1	3	1	4	2
Netherlands Antilles	1	2	6	10	26	35	42
French West Indies	3/	9	6	36	0	0	0
Central America:							
British Honduras	3/	2/	6	13	28	0	2
Canal Zone	3/	6	17	32	3	2/	2/
Panama, Republic of	3/	6	5	1	10	1	1
South America:							
Argentina	178	31	14	0	0	0	0
Colombia	74	2/	0	12	2/	2/	1
Venezuela	3/	8	21	93	442	57	148
Bolivia	3/	4	2	12	3	2	8
Chile	104	12	2	2/	2	3	1
Total above countries	486	1,764	3,383	5,692	6,126	4,999	5,770

1/ Milled rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Less than 500 bags.
3/ Not separately reported.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

GUATEMALA EXPORTS RICE

During 1953 the domestic rice supplies of Guatemala were large enough to permit the export of a little over 1,100 metric tons. About one-half of this went to the Republic of Korea, and the balance to other South American countries. The acreage in 1953 rose to 24,000 acres, as compared with about 18,500 the preceding year, and another good crop was produced.

The annual per capita consumption of rice is rising slowly because of the increasing popularity of rice as a food and because of the increase in its availability. It is now estimated at from 5.5 to 6.6 pounds. The outlook is for production to remain adequate for domestic requirements and for exports to be insignificant.

FRENCH MAY TAKE MORE U. S. LEAF IN 1954

Imports of leaf tobacco into France from the United States in 1954 are expected to reach 15 million pounds, according to the American Embassy, Paris. This would compare with only 6.0 million pounds in 1953, and 6.8 million in 1952. The expected 15 million pound figure for this year includes purchases of United States dark tobaccos and Burley tips to be made under Section 550 of the Mutual Security Act of 1953. Imports from other countries, provided for in existing bilateral trade arrangements are expected to continue at the usual level.

Factory consumption of leaf tobacco in France during 1953 totaled about 150.6 million pounds--up 3 percent from the 146 million pounds for 1952. Only about 5.2 million pounds, however, of the 1953 total consumption originated in the United States, broken down by type as follows: Kentucky-Tennessee fire-cured, 2.7 million pounds; flue-cured 1.7 million; one-sucker 0.4 million; Burley, 0.3 million; and Maryland, 0.1 million. In 1952, factory usings of United States leaf tobacco amounted to 6.5 million pounds.

During the past two years, the proportion of United States tobaccos used in French factories has been well below the prewar and immediate postwar levels, as larger proportions of domestically produced dark tobaccos and other imported tobaccos have been used. For 1934-38, an average of nearly 20 million pounds of our tobacco, principally fire-cured, was used; and during the period 1947-51 usings averaged 14 million pounds. The sharp decline in French imports and consumption of dark tobaccos from the United States has created serious problems for this country's growers and exporters.

Imports of cigarettes in 1953 at 2,282 thousand pounds were about 8 percent below the previous year. This decline is largely attributable to a decline in demand following price increases which were authorized in October 1952 and May 1953 for the purpose of raising the profits of the Tobacco Monopoly to permit additional specific Government expenditures.

IRELAND'S TOBACCO IMPORTS SHOW RISE

Ireland's imports of unmanufactured tobacco for 1953 totaled 17.3 million pounds compared with 16.2 million for 1952. The United States supplied 16.6 million pounds (mostly flue-cured) in 1953--equal to about 96 percent of total imports, compared with 15.7 million--or 97 percent of the total in 1952. Other sources of supply in 1953 included: India 310,000 pounds; Southern Rhodesia, 106,000 pounds and Northern Rhodesia, 103,000 pounds.

Last year, consumption, as measured by leaf withdrawals from bond for manufacture, was slightly higher than the 1952 level--14.0 million pounds, compared with 13.8 million. For the past two years, however, consumption has been below the 1951 level of 15.1 million pounds. In 1952 import duties were raised. This resulted in higher retail prices for cigarettes. The drop in factory withdrawals for consumption below 1951 levels is believed to be directly attributable to a decline in consumer demand resulting from the higher cost of cigarettes.

ARGENTINA'S 1953-54 GRAIN EXPORTS MUCH ABOVE 1952-53

Grain exports by Argentina during the period July 1953-February 1954 totaled 4,402,641 long tons compared with 605,780 tons during the comparable period a year earlier. The totals for individual grains, with comparisons for the similar period a year ago shown in parenthesis, were : Wheat, 2,095,591 (84,818) tons; rye, 575,319 (7,933) tons; corn, 946,453 (444,686) tons; oats, 297,925 (9,773) tons; and barley, 487,353 (58,570) tons. Well over half of the wheat exports went to such nearby destinations as Brazil, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, and Bolivia and most of the balance to European markets. The latter area also figured as the destination for the major shipments of rye, corn, oats, and barley.

It now appears that Argentina's exportable surplus of wheat for the marketing year beginning December 1, 1953 amounts to about 3.0 to 3.5 million tons. The export availabilities for corn for the year beginning April 1, 1954 may amount to about 3.6 million long tons. With respect to rye and oats, the amounts available for export during December 1953-November 1954 total approximately 650,000 and 400,000 tons, respectively. As of February 1, 1954, Argentina has a reported exportable barley surplus of about 215,000 tons.

U.S. OILSEED MEAL TRADE POSITION SHIFTS

The trade position of the United States in oilseed cakes and meals shifted from that of a net importer to that of a net exporter during the 5-month period October 1953-February 1954. Net exports in this period amounted to 10,320 tons in contrast to net imports of 209,162 tons in the corresponding months of 1952-53. During the complete years beginning October 1952 and 1951, net imports totaled 232,264 and 303,566 tons, respectively, whereas in 1950-51, net exports amounted to 40,649 tons.

UNITED STATES: Net trade in oilseed cake and meal, by kind, year beginning October 1, 1949-51, monthly, October 1953-February 1954 1/

(Short tons)

Year and month	Copra	Cotton-seed	Linseed	Peanut	Soybean	Other	Total
1949	56,485	-18,831	-1,683	-42,673	-21,312	32,219	4,205
1950	65,762	76,779	-28,224	-22,890	-148,279	16,203	-40,649
1951	103,818	167,003	16,277	3,005	-17,649	31,132	303,586
1952	95,987	80,462	26,342	3,471	-10,731	36,733	232,264
1953							
October ...	6,517	-5,489	-15	0	-9,340	67	-8,260
November...	6,359	-86	-308	0	-14,081	58	-8,058
December...	7,000	6,243	-3,663	-500	-12,045	482	-2,483
January....	5,872	4,189	-1,118	10	-3,181	1,092	6,864
February...	3,038	1,279	-1,610	-784	-1,254	948	1,617
Total Oct-Feb	28,786	6,136	-6,714	-1,274	-39,901	2,647	-10,320

1/ Minus sign (-) indicates net exports.

Compiled from Bureau of the Census data. United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service.

The change in the United States position occurred largely as a result of heavy exports of soybean cake and meal, particularly in November and December of 1953. Net exports of soybean cake and meal in October-February 1953-54 totaled 39,901 tons in contrast to net imports of 20,411 tons in October-February 1952-53. Soybean meal exports, however, dropped substantially in January and February. The bulk of the soybean cake and meal went to Japan and Canada.

Net exports of linseed cake and meal amounted to 6,714 tons in the 5-month period under review against net imports of 16,505 tons in the comparable period of the previous year. The United States maintained its position as a net importer of cottonseed and copra cakes and meals, but the volume of net imports dropped sharply. Cottonseed meal imports declined from 88,935 tons in October-February 1952-53 to 6,136; and copra meal from 43,479 to 28,786 tons in the first 5 months of this year.

COTTON EXPORT PROSPECTS IN GUATEMALA

Approximately 19,000 bales of cotton (500 pounds gross weight), surplus from the 1952-53 and 1953-54 crops, were still available for export from Guatemala in March 1954 (including 5,000 bales sold but not shipped), according to Cleveland B. McKnight, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Guatemala. This quantity was available notwithstanding a large warehouse fire in February which destroyed 20,000 Spanish quintals (101.4 pounds each) of unginned cotton equivalent to approximately 1,500 bales of ginned cotton.

Foreseeing the cotton surplus from the 1953-54 crop the Government provided in a Resolution effective November 23, 1953, (harvesting begins in November) that local purchasers of cotton must pay ₡4.00 per quintal (3.94 cents a pound) of ginned cotton, or ₡1.50 per quintal (1.48 cents a pound) of unginned cotton, into a Stabilization Fund for National Cotton Prices. The fund is managed by the INFOP (Production Development Institute), and is used to subsidize exports of ginned cotton to meet world market prices which are considerably below those established in the Guatemalan market. The INFOP purchases only ginned cotton classified for export, for which it pays the established price of ₡40.00 per quintal (39.44 cents a pound) delivered to the railroad stations and also contributes ₡4.00 (3.94 cents) into the Stabilization Fund.

Prices (f.o.b. Guatemalan ports) received for the 5,000 bales sold earlier this year are: Grade I ₡35.20 (34.71 cents), Grade II ₡32.75 (32.29 cents), and Grade III ₡31.00 (30.57 cents). The decree mentioned above fixed prices to be paid to producers for unginned cotton delivered to the gins at ₡14.63 (14.43 cents) for cotton from certified seed and ₡12.50 (12.33 cents) for cotton from native seed. The amount of the subsidy and the method of paying it were not mentioned in the Embassy report.

Cotton production in Guatemala is estimated at 24,000 bales in 1953-54 and at 16,000 bales in 1952-53 the only years in which production has exceeded domestic consumption. Consumption averages about 12,000 bales per year.

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN AUSTRIA

Partial recovery in 1953 of the Austrian textile industry, particularly that segment producing cotton textiles, has been reported by E. G. Rothblum, American Embassy, Vienna. Although the industry as a whole was not able to recover fully from the 1952 crisis, the large cotton spinning and weaving mills were able to increase their output of cotton goods by about 30 percent.

Consumption of raw cotton in the calendar year 1953 amounted to 84,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) compared with 77,000 in 1952. For earlier years the consumption level has been close to 100,000 bales. Stocks of cotton on July 31, 1953, were reported at 26,000 bales as compared with 15,000 on that date a year earlier.

Cotton imports during August-December 1953 totaled 29,000 bales as compared with 20,000 for the same period in 1952. Prices (in terms of Austrian currency) of imported cotton rose 22 percent in May 1953 with the unification of the Austrian foreign exchange rate. This caused a rise in prices of cotton products sold on the local market and a decline in sales. However, the new exchange rate provides a strong stimulus to increased sales of textiles for export that is being reflected in increased imports and consumption of cotton.

AUSTRIA: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;
average 1934-38; annual 1950-52;
August-December 1952 and 1953

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds)

Country of origin	Calendar years	Year beginning August 1				
	Average				August-December	
	1934-38	1950	1951	1952	1952	1953
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Belgian Congo..	11	1/	1	1	1	0
Brazil.........	6	1	6	1/	1/	1/
Egypt..........	27	10	1	9	1	8
India and Pakistan.....	25	4	1/	7	0	2
United Kingdom.	2/	12	14	5	5	0
United States..	94	62	35	46	9	19
Other countries	4	11	8	11	4	0
Total	167	100	65	79	20	29

1/ Less than 500 bales.
2/ If any, included in "Other countries."

Compiled from Statistik des Auswartigen Handels Osterreicks and official sources.

INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA IN 1953

Milk production, exclusive of on-farm consumption, in Argentina during 1953 was more than 9 billion pounds, slightly higher than 1952. Creamery butter manufactured in 1953 totaled 129 million pounds compared with 103 in 1952. Cheese production reached 243 million pounds, about 11 million pounds over the previous year. The output of casein increased from 62 million pounds in 1952 to almost 77 million pounds.

With winter feed in good supply and demand for butter and cheese strong, prospects for an increase in milk production, at least during the first half of 1954, are good. The casein situation, however, is proving troublesome. Only 10 percent of the estimated monthly production of 9 million pounds is used domestically; the other 90 percent is available for export with the United States being the principal importer of Argentine casein. Export prices reached a high of 18 cents a pound in 1953, but are currently at 14.5 cents. There is little overseas movement at this price and stocks are currently reported to total approximately 57 million pounds.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS INCREASE IN 1953 [1]

World sheep numbers continued upward in 1953 for the sixth consecutive year. A new record of around 841 million head was on hand at the beginning of 1954, 2 percent more than in 1953 and 17 percent more than the 1946-50 average, on the basis of the latest information collected and analyzed by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Sheep numbers increased in most important producing areas in 1953, except North America. However, the increase for the world was only 13 million compared with 18 million a year earlier, 27 million in 1951 and 33 million in 1950. The very sharp rise in world wool prices following the outbreak of the war in Korea intensified interest in sheep production and the increase in numbers has continued despite the fact that world wool prices are now materially below the peaks reached in 1950-51. Favorable returns to producers for wool and a strong demand for mutton and lamb in recent years have favored expansion in most important sheep areas.

On the other hand, high costs in relation to returns from sheep, greater profits from cattle and other farm enterprises, and shortages of competent labor have resulted in a depression in the United States sheep industry. Rainfall has been below average for 3 years over large areas of Texas and the Southwest which has reduced numbers there. The United States total, except for 1950 and 1951, is now the lowest of annual records dating back to 1867.

Sheep numbers changed little in the important producing areas of South America during 1953 and in several countries on that continent sheep are facing increased competition from cattle.

The important sheep-producing countries showing increase in 1953 include Australia, Argentina, India, the Union of South Africa, and New Zealand. Also gains were registered in Uruguay and the United Kingdom. Apparently numbers have changed little in Spain during the past few years. It is doubtful if numbers increased in the U.S.S.R. because of considerable losses of sheep in the principal producing areas as a result of the severe winter.

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[1] A more extensive statement will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1949-1954

Continent and Country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1936-40	Average 1946-50	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 2/	1954 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1/	2,651	1,681	1,322	1,259	1,268	1,016	1,105	1,161
Guatemala	July	273	665	-	712	-	-	-	-
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/	3/4/ 4,809	4,900	5,100	4/ 4,902	5,000	5,000	4,800	5,000
United States	Jan. 1	51,404	34,993	30,943	29,826	30,635	32,088	31,861	30,902
Estimated total		59,700	42,800	38,600	37,300	38,200	39,400	39,100	38,400
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 1 1/	5/ 316	6/ 419	6/ 454	6/ 375	400	365	350	297
Belgium	Jan. 1	3/ 187	132	113	121	116	124	114	-
Denmark	July 15	3/ 147	93	65	61	56	48	40	-
Finland	June	7/ 1,007	8/ 1,071	8/ 1,067	1,220	1,096	1,126	998	-
France	Fall 1/	9,648	6/ 7,257	6/ 7,510	6/ 7,480	6/ 7,511	6/ 7,585	6/ 7,674	6/ 7,831
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	5/ 1,889	2,274	2,492	2,020	1,642	1,666	1,544	1,347
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 8,304	6,698	6,631	6,337	6,793	7,348	7,784	8,270
Iceland	Dec. 31 1/	9/ 624	462	445	402	416	410	-	-
Ireland	June	3,076	2,229	2,183	2,385	2,616	2,857	2,929	-
Italy	Jan. 1	9,650	9,624	10,366	10,295	10,141	10,002	9,950	9,917
Netherlands	May	636	459	464	390	360	383	424	-
Norway	June 20	1,742	1,716	1,736	1,812	1,929	1,987	1,985	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	6/10/ 3,890	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,200
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 20,000	5/ 22,500	24,921	-	-	26,200	-	-
Sweden	Summer	398	368	311	279	261	256	241	-
Switzerland	April	5/ 177	5/ 189	-	-	191	-	-	-
United Kingdom	June	26,112	19,032	19,493	20,430	19,984	21,655	22,429	-
Yugoslavia	Jan.	1/ 9,796	5/ 9,000	-	10,042	10,273	10,518	11,400	-
Total above		97,700	87,900	92,800	94,200	95,200	97,800	99,900	101,400
Other Europe		26,100	21,400	23,100	24,000	24,200	25,000	25,300	25,300
Total Europe		123,800	109,300	115,900	118,200	119,400	122,800	125,200	126,700
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	3/ 66,000	67,700	74,000	78,000	86,000	90,000	92,000	-
ASIA									
Cyprus 11/	March	300	302	304	287	-	1/ 295	1/ 313	-
Iran	Mar. 21	14,497	12,800	11,100	13,572	14,672	16,200	17,000	17,550
Iraq	Mar. 31	5/ 7,090	5/ 7,323	7,055	7,490	12/ 9,000	10,000	-	-
Syria 11/	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 2,060	2,963	2,843	2,443	3,250	3,232	3,400	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	21,656	24,053	25,840	23,073	23,083	24,833	26,561	28,000
China 13/	May	26,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	3/ 41,000	5/ 38,200	-	38,900	-	39,975	-	-
Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 1,614	5/ 1,805	-	1,999	-	-	2,565	2,693
Pakistan	Jan. 1	3/ 8,000	3/ 6,150	-	-	-	8,000	-	-
Estimated total		152,600	148,900	149,900	150,700	156,600	162,200	166,200	169,400

SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	5/ 44,900	50,000	45,000	47,000	50,500	51,500	51,000	51,500
Bolivia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 2,608	3/ 4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil		5/ 11,438	5/ 14,413	-	-	1/ 14,251	1/ 15,891	1/ 16,264	-
Chile	June	5/ 5,855	6,050	6,000	6,000	-	-	6,500	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	916	5/ 1,110	1,061	1,198	1,339	-	1,465	1,550
Falkland Islands		604	610	604	611	597	584	594	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	5/ 159	254	252	202	216	200	-	-
Peru		3/ 14,900	5/ 17,852	18,518	17,751	16,268	15,904	16,200	-
Uruguay	May	3/ 17,931	21,600	23,000	23,000	23,409	1/ 27,000	1/ 28,500	1/ 28,500
Estimated total		100,900	117,500	114,800	115,600	118,400	124,500	126,400	127,600
AFRICA									
Algeria 11/	April	6,180	3,486	3,839	4,531	5,321	6,028	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		5/ 2,500	5/ 5,375	5,600	5,600	6,000	-	-	-
Kenya		5/ 3,274	5/ 3,260	3,350	-	3,400	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	1,780	5/ 2,263	2,153	-	2,445	2,339	2,515	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	1,285	5/ 1,018	-	1,066	1,035	1,051	-	-
Basutoland	February	1,443	5/ 1,630	1,558	-	1,564	-	-	-
Egypt	July 1	5/ 1,771	1,943	1,903	1,932	1,944	1,959	1,864	-
Ethiopia (incl. Eritrea)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,500
French Morocco 11/	Dec. 31 1/	9,976	7,939	8,474	9,149	10,375	10,960	9,945	10,400
French West Africa and Togo		5/ 8,674	9,000	9,400	9,700	-	-	10,800	-
Madagascar 11/	Dec. 31 1/	193	171	177	204	244	284	365	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	84	63	64	70	74	82	76	-
Northern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	36	36	36	36	47	39	38	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	310	312	302	315	307	316	336	-
South West Africa		5/ 2,972	5/ 2,622	2,628	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish Morocco 11/		481	593	665	684	-	-	-	-
Tunisia 11/	Dec. 31 1/	3,026	2,010	1,587	1,885	2,361	3,060	3,420	3,000
Union of South Africa	August	39,899	31,542	31,908	31,361	34,823	35,480	-	-
Estimated total		99,700	98,300	100,300	103,800	113,900	117,800	119,700	122,000
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 112,571	103,261	108,735	112,891	115,596	117,647	123,081	130,000
New Zealand	Apr. 30	31,352	32,973	32,845	33,857	4/ 34,786	4/ 35,384	4/ 36,193	4/ 37,000
Estimated total		144,000	136,300	141,600	146,800	150,400	153,000	159,300	167,000
Estimated world total		746,700	720,800	735,100	750,400	782,900	809,700	827,900	841,100

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals, thus for Canada the December 1, 1948 estimate of 1,322,000 head is shown under 1949. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Census or estimate for single year. 4/ June. 5/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ March. 9/ Spring. 10/ Census, December 31, 1940. 11/ Data include only number taxed. 12/ A new series of estimates was inaugurated by the Directorate of Veterinary Service in 1951. 13/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan).

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service Officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.--April 1954.

Sheep numbers have reached new high records in Australia and New Zealand. Australia now has around 130 million head compared with an average of 103 million in 1946-50. There now total around 37 million sheep in New Zealand compared with 33 million during 1946-50. Prices of lamb and mutton have steadily increased in these countries since the early years of World War II and wool prices at the level of the last two years have been attractive to producers with their relatively low costs. More effective control of rabbits in Australia has increased feed supplies for domestic livestock and grazing conditions have continued favorable. Some further increase in livestock output in New Zealand seems probable due to the better use of land and bringing new lands into production. New Zealand has a remarkably high productivity of lambs and wool per breeding ewe.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world livestock production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service Reports.

DAIRY SITUATION IN WESTERN GERMANY, 1953

With favorable weather and excellent feed and grazing conditions, milk production in Western Germany continued its upward rise in 1953. Cow's milk production at 36.8 billion pounds was 6 percent over 1952 production. Domestic supplies of dairy products were ample and market fluctuations were fairly well regulated by the availability of storage butter and imported dairy products. Per capita consumption of all products except skim milk and butter increased during the year; particularly favorable was the increase of 4 percent in the consumption of fluid milk.

Increases in net imports of butter and cheese were also noted. In 1952 net imports of butter in Western Germany amounted to 16 million pounds; in 1953 it was 19 million pounds. Net imports of cheese rose 29 million pounds from 80 million pounds in 1952 to 109 million pounds in 1953.

Forecasts for 1954 estimate milk production at 38.1 billion pounds. Because of import obligations for butter and cheese most of the expected increase in production will have to be consumed in fluid form. With the production increase and the long established foreign trade patterns there is little possibility for developing an export outlet in Western Germany for United States dairy products.

U.S. TO LIFT MEXICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE BAN

Secretary of Agriculture Benson announced on April 14 that if present favorable conditions with respect to foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico continue and no more outbreaks occur, he will declare Mexico to be free of the disease as of December 31, 1954. On that date the U.S.-Mexican border will automatically be opened to imports of livestock and fresh, chilled, or frozen meat products.

United States imports of meat animals from Mexico have been prohibited since 1946, except for a period between September 1, 1952 - May 23, 1953. The closing of the border on May 23, 1953 was the result of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the State of Veracruz. Action closing the United States borders to imports of susceptible animals and their fresh, chilled, or frozen products is required by provisions of United States law, which prohibits such imports from any country where foot-and-mouth disease is known to exist.

Mexico and Canada have been the major sources of live cattle for importation by the United States. From 1939 to 1945, the last year when import were not limited by the disease quarantine, entries each year from Mexico ranged from a low of 301,000 head in 1944 to a high of 588,000 in 1943. A large proportion of the cattle shipped in were feeder-type cattle weighing less than 700 pounds which normally were grain-fattened or fattened on grass before slaughter. Producers in Northern Mexico generally are not able to compete with producers in Southern Mexico to sell their surplus in Mexico City and other metropolitan areas in that section of the country.

Since the first foot-and-mouth disease quarantine in June 1946 the United States Government has cooperated actively with the Mexican Government to eradicate the disease in the interests of livestock producers in the United States. This cooperation has taken the form of beef purchases, technical assistance, and direct financial assistance. Modern packing plants were erected in Mexico and the Commodity Credit Corporation purchased canned and frozen beef products during 1947-50 amounting to over $62 million. Purchases of beef and beef products totaled 248 million pounds. Most of the surplus beef was processed into canned products but around 30 million pounds was frozen. The Mexican beef was not consumed in the United States. The Commodity Credit Corporation sold some of the canned product to the National Catholic Welfare Foundation, Near East Foundation, International Refugee Organization, International Sales Corporation and the United States Armed Forces for use in occupied countries. Some was sent to Italy, Austria, Trieste and the United Kingdom under United States foreign assistance programs. During the year 1950-51 most sales of canned meat were made to commercial exporters but some were made to the Governments of Yugoslavia, Israel and Greece. All of the frozen beef was shipped to Greece under Economic Cooperation Administration's programs. The Commodity Credit Corporation discontinued its purchases in Mexico in early 1950.

United States imports of pickled, cured and canned beef from Mexico were allowed in 1951 for the first time in many years as Mexico established a National Meat Inspection system compatible with United States requirements.

Imports of beef in 1951 were equivalent to 317,000 head of live cattle. Entries of beef in 1952 reached a much higher level (equivalent to around 474,000 head) and in addition 127,000 head of live cattle entered the country in September-December when the border quarantine was lifted. Imports of beef and live animals, equivalent to 601,000 head in 1952, were the largest since the record total of 588,000 head in 1943. Exports of beef to the United States in 1953 dropped to about one-third the 1952 total and exports of live cattle in January-May 23, when the border was open to such shipments, were about the same as during 1952.

UNITED STATES: Imports of live cattle and beef from Mexico, averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1945-46 and 1951-53

Year	Live cattle imports	Imports of Beef and Veal					
		Fresh chilled or frozen	Boneless 1/	Pickled and cured	Canned	Total	Total equivalent as live cattle imports 2/
	(Head)	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	Head
Average 1935-39	276,127	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Average 1940-44	450,503	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
1945	435,435	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
1946	438,891	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
1951	4/	4/	4/	42,749	3,603	46,352	317,000
1952	5/ 127,279	5/ 7,201	5/ 15,900	45,920	3,370	72,391	474,000
1953	6/ 127,927	6/ 3,412	6/ 13,702	7,112	727	24,953	160,000

1/ Estimated quantity included in "Canned meats, n.e.s., and prepared or preserved meats, n.s.p.f." 2/ Assuming animals averaging around 450 pounds, or the type of cattle making up most of the imports. 3/ Imports not allowed due to U. S. inspection regulations. 4/ Imports prohibited due to foot-and-mouth disease quarantine. 5/ September 1 - December 31. 6/ January 1 - May 23.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Inspection records indicate that United States imports of beef from Mexico during the first quarter of 1954 totaled around 9.5 million pounds compared with imports of 5.8 million pounds in October-December 1953 and 14.4 million in January-March 1953. All of the meat inspected for import in the first quarter of 1954 was cured beef. It is expected that shipments from Mexico will decline through the spring and will continue small throughout the summer when slaughter is seasonably small.

The recent devaluation of Mexican currency might encourage a temporary increase in exports of beef from Mexico. Higher prices in Mexico will tend to discourage local consumption and may encourage greater marketings for slaughter. On the other hand, the spread between prices of meat in Mexico and the United States has narrowed due to the devaluation which will tend to reduce imports from Mexico.

U. S. POULTRY EXPORTS TO PANAMA DRASTICALLY REDUCED

Chicken numbers in Panama are roughly estimated at over 1,400,000. Panama in the past has not been self-sufficient in the production of poultry products. The United States in 1953, for example, exported in value to Panama approximately $370,000 worth of egg and poultry products.

United States: Exports of poultry products to Panama, average 1946-50, annual 1951-53

Commodity	Unit	Average 1946-50	1951	1952	1953
Eggs in the shell.....	1,000 doz.	383	331	561	431
Frozen eggs	1,000 lbs.	57	89	63	91
Poultry & game, fresh or frozen...........	1,000 lbs.	93	99	139	191
Baby chicks	1,000 ea.	1/	1/	212	159

1/ Not available as baby chicks and live poultry were given together.

National economic self-sufficiency, however, has become an integral part of the Panamanian Government's general policy. Thus the Government is encouraging domestic poultry production and has enacted certain import controls.

In this connection, Law No. 3 of 1953 established the Institute of Economic Development early in 1953 giving broad powers to import certain articles of consumption under such special import duty and quota conditions as the Executive Organ might decree. On September 29, 1953, the Government was authorized according to Law No. 44 to increase the import duty on all eggs from the existing rate of 10 cents per dozen to a maximum possible rate of $1.00. On October 24, it actually fixed this duty at 50 cents per dozen, according to Decree No. 460. Before taking this step, however, on October 16, it prohibited the importation of all poultry and eggs for consumption, effective November 1, according to the Office of Price Control's Resolution No. 15.

The most recent uses of these controls occurred on January 15 when the Government allocated the entire first semester import quota, ending June 30, 1954, of 10,000 dozen hatching eggs to the official Institute of Economic Development according to the Office of Price Control's Resolution No. 3; and on January 30 fixed the import duty on these eggs at 10 cents per dozen under Executive Decree No. 15. The Institute of Economic Development plans to sell these eggs to poultry producers at a low-price, non-profit basis to stimulate a self-sufficient domestic poultry industry.

The important question, then, is what effect have these enacted laws and decrees had upon United States poultry exports since October 1953 and how seriously will they deter imports after the first semester of 1954. In the case of eggs in the shell, the big export item to Panama, the effects have been significant. Panama imported from the United States, in September and October of 1953, 133,000 dozen eggs compared to 111,000 for the same period 1952. However, starting in November 1953 the restriction on imports became evident. The United States exported only 4,000 dozen in November, and from November 1953 through February 1954, the United States only exported 10,000 dozen compared to 159,000 dozen for the same period a year before. Of further significance is that, of the 10,000 dozen recently exported, 6,000 were exported in January and February under the import quota program of securing 10,000 dozen hatching eggs for flock improvement the first semester of 1954. Unless there is a change of policy by the Government of Panama, our exports to Panama of eggs in the shell in 1954 might well be below 20,000 dozen eggs compared to over 400,000 dozen in 1953. The export climate for fresh or frozen poultry and game, baby chicks and frozen eggs is even less favorable for 1954.

ARGENTINE WOOL EXPORTS LARGER IN MARCH

Argentine wool exports in March continued the upward trend of recent months with the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany the principal buyers according to William L. Rodman, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

However, Argentine exports of wool are well below the high level of a year ago. During the month of February, exports total a little over 18 million pounds as compared to about 50 million pounds in February 1953. Exports from October 1, 1953 to March 1, 1954 totaled only 55 million pounds, a substantial decline from the 236 million pounds shipped abroad during the corresponding period of the 1952-53 season. The Argentine trade attributes the decrease directly to the reimposition of the 8 percent sales tax.

The domestic wool market remained inactive during the month of March as manufacturers were reluctant to increase stocks which were at a relatively low level. However, export prices advanced slightly during the second week of April as a result of substantial purchases by the United Kingdom for delivery in April and May. Also, under an existing trade agreement the Soviet Union has contracted for about 64 million pounds of Argentine wool but shipments have not commenced. Japan is currently negotiating for a reported $5.5 million of Argentine wool in exchange for Japanese steel and metal goods.

U. S. POULTRY BREEDING STOCK IN THAILAND

Thailand poultry interests, primarily Kasetsart University, during the past two years have acquired from American poultry breeders over 16,000 Rhode Island Red and White Leghorn baby chicks and over 20,000 hatching eggs in an effort to improve its poultry industry. Over 50 modern poultry farms have developed in the Bangkok area alone. There are now over 9,000 laying hens at Kasetsart supplying eggs for hatching at the University. The baby chicks and pullets are distributed to farms throughout Thailand.

CANADA REPORTS NEAR-RECORD MARCH 31 GRAIN STOCKS

Total stocks of the five major grains in Canada at the end of March this year were larger than the sizeable stocks on hand March 31, 1953, and were second only to the record stocks of March 31, 1943. Stocks of both barley and rye were the largest of record at March 31 while wheat stocks were second only to those on hand in 1943. Stocks of oats were less than those of a year ago and were well below the 1943 record.

Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31 were estimated at 741.2 million bushels, compared with 606.3 million a year ago and the record of 762.4 million in 1943. Stocks remaining on farms at the end of March were 383 million bushels, a new record for farm stocks, exceeding the previous record of 329 million last year by 16 percent. Farm stocks represent 52 percent of total stocks in all positions at the end of March. Of the 358 million bushels off farms on that date 197 million bushels were in country elevators in the Prairie Provinces, 55 million in Fort William-Port Arthur elevators and 54 million in eastern elevators.

Rye stocks were estimated at 25 million bushels. This sets a new record for March 31 rye stocks, surpassing by about 2 million bushels the previous record of 23.7 million set last year. Of the current total, a new record of 19.5 million bushels were on farms and 3.4 million in country elevators.

Barley stocks of 227.2 million bushels set a record for the third successive year, surpassing last year's total by 9.4 million. Farm stocks were 169.8 million bushels and stocks in country elevators 33.2 million.

Canada: Grain stocks in all positions, March 31, 1954, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats 1/	Barley	Rye
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
In Canada				
On farms	382,660	241,350	169,750	19,500
Country elevators	197,235	20,858	33,161	3,374
Interior private and mill elevators	6,928	589	2,081	20
Interior terminal elevators	15,000	19	626	1/
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	10,880	359	1,532	10
Victoria elevator	239	2/	1	-
Prince Rupert elevator	53	5	574	-
Churchill elevator	2,516	1	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators	54,557	11,155	12,364	1,758
Storage afloat	8,261	-	-	-
In transit, rail	8,222	5,100	3,432	213
Eastern elevators	50,904	1,347	3,120	1,065
Eastern mills (mill bins only)	2,796	236	144	4
Western mills (mill bins only)	313	95	38	7
Total in Canda 3/	740,563	281,114	226,824	25,952
Canadian grain in the United States	609	-	355	-
Total Canadian grain in North America	741,172	281,114	227,179	25,952
March 31, 1953 stocks 4/				
In Canada	604,297	309,251	217,403	22,815
In the United States	2,038	697	394	902
Total in North America	606,335	309,948	217,797	23,717
1944-1955 average	365,339	215,300	109,239	10,056

1/ As reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 2/ Less than 500 bushels.
3/ Subject to revision. 4/ Revised.

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks other than on farms and in mills are compiled by the Board of Grain Commissioners, as of April 1.

March-end stocks of oats, estimated at 281.1 million bushels, were down from last year's level of 309.9 million and well below the 1943 record of 393.5 million bushels. Farm stocks of 241.4 million bushels were less than stocks in that position a year ago. Stocks in country elevators, at 20.9 million bushels, were also less than those of March 1953.

FATS AND OILS EXPORTS AT RECORD LEVELS

United States exports of fats, oils, and oilseeds have been at record levels since the beginning of the current marketing year. October-February exports totaled 1.4 billion pounds on an oil equivalent basis compared with 0.97 billion during the comparable period last year--an increase of nearly 45 percent. The 5 months through February indicate an annual rate of about 3.3 billion pounds. In each of the 3 proceeding marketing years, exports totaled around 2.3 billion pounds oil equivalent. Thus, if export sales continue high through the balance of this year, a billion-pound increase is in sight.

The new high export rate for October-February is accounted for mainly by expanded foreign rates of soybeans, cottonseed oil, linseed oil, peanuts, tallows, greases, and fish oils. Significant decreases occurred only in the case of soybean oil and lard.

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds, October-February 1952-1953, 1953-1954

Commodity	Unit	October - February	
		1952-53 1/	1953-54 1/
Soybeans	1,000 bu.	19,686	29,780
Soybean oil	1,000 lbs.	57,080	30,799
Coconut oil	" "	9,591	4,613
Cottonseed	" "	17,081	17,444
Cottonseed oil	" "	27,701	67,867
Flaxseed	1,000 bu.	17	1
Linseed oil	" lbs.	1,547	139,757
Peanuts 2/	" "	1,113	62,093
Peanut oil	" "	942	5,524
Fatty veg. acids	" "	12,642	5,778
Oleomargarine	" "	1,084	1,408
Shortenings, except lard	" "	1,213	8,590
Lard	" "	230,776	163,611
Tallow 3/	" "	306,997	439,194
Animal fats and greases, ined.	" "	34,625	77,947
Stearic acid	" "	2,610	2,460
Fish oils, excluding medicinal	" "	38,109	65,369
All other (as oil)	" "	41,386	47,744
Total as oil	1,000 lbs.	967,022	1,398,916

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Shelled basis. 3/ Mainly inedible tallow.

Compiled from official sources.

Sales of surplus stocks by the Commodity Credit Corporation, particularly linseed oil, peanuts, and cottonseed oil played an important role in the increased export business. Soybeans, tallow, greases, and fish oils, however, surged upward largely as straight commercial transactions with no government participation. Indications are that soybean exports will decline sharply during the balance of the crop year, but increased exports of cottonseed oil are expected to maintain expanded foreign marketings of edible oils.

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